GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
TRAINING TO PILOTS FOR CAT- III A SYSTEM
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Better flight slotting can minimize fog effect` appearing in the Times of India dated January 10, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether State owned Indian airlines have trained its pilot to operate flights using CAT-IIIA system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory to train pilots to use CAT-IIIA system to get rid of fog;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total loss suffered by IA and AI because of cancellation of flights due to fog during the current season?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g): A Statement in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.317 FOR REPLY ON 24-03-2005 REGARDING TRAINING TO PILOTS FOR CAT-IIIA SYSTEM.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government issues guidelines during every fog period for operations during Low Visibility Conditions, wherein amongst other matters, preference is given by Air Traffic Control to Cat-IIIA and Cat-II trained pilots to take off and land during Low Visibility conditions. Airlines request for flight slots to provide the best utilization of their trained pilots in order to make full use of Cat-IIIA Instrument Landing System (ILS) so as to minimize the adverse effect of fog and inconvenience to passengers. However, all the pilots of various airlines are not trained for Cat-IIIA ILS and hence have not been able to make full use of the system.

(c) and (d) As on March 21, 2005, 52 pilots of Indian Airlines and 56 pilots of Air India are trained and approved for utilization of Cat-IIIA system.

(e) and (f) Airlines have been impressed upon to step up training of their pilot in Cat-IIIA ILS operations. Moreover, training of pilots and their authorisation by DGCA for use of Cat-IIIA ILS is mandatory before using the system during fog.

(g) The actual loss suffered by Airlines on account of cancellation of flights due to fog is not mentioned in their financial statements.